



Scott H. Christiansen

County Board Chairman

County of Winnebago

August 25, 2014

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street
Washington, ID 20554

Re: Comcast and Time Warner Cable Transaction

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on the proposed Comcast and Time Warner Cable transaction. Comcast operates television stations, call centers and other facilities and provides cable and Internet services in Illinois, and it has a strong presence in benevolent activities as well. As Chairman of the Board of Winnebago County, Illinois, I request the Commission's approval of the proposed Comcast/Time Warner Cable transaction.

Our County is located in north-central Illinois and the City of Rockford is our county seat. We are home to 278,000 people whose work supports numerous industries, many of which are based in manufacturing. We have a strong highway network, three major hospitals, forests and parks, and a great deal of farmland. Economic development is a top focus for our county, working in concert with surrounding Illinois and Wisconsin communities.

Comcast has proven to be a durable economic partner here. Last year, Comcast invested more than \$1 billion in its activities in Illinois. I understand its Illinois payroll is close to \$30 million a year at this point. The company provides needed jobs and its hiring policies are among the most inclusive we've seen.

In particular, Comcast is known for its efforts to employ military veterans, a cause that our County Board devotes significant resources to. Our Veterans Assistance Commission helps honorably discharged veterans in need, and we have a role in making job referrals. We know that Comcast actively seeks to hire veterans through several companywide initiatives. For instance, Comcast set a goal a few years ago to hire 2,000 veterans over a roughly two-year period. It met that goal early. Comcast works directly with the U.S. Army at job fairs, and it set up an Internet page where veterans can look up job opportunities and look into advancing their educational and career training. The company also has published an online guide for veterans that explains how they can tap their military training to ace job interviews; and does business with the National Veteran-Owned Business Association, among other pro-veteran activities.

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It is our mission to provide high quality services and promote a safe community for all people in Winnebago County.

We also see Comcast officials and employees out in our community in many forums. I am a strong proponent of volunteerism and when it comes to this subject matter, Comcast Cares Day does many projects in Winnebago County. Every year, I wake up early and join hundreds of Comcast employees, friends and family, to kick-off Comcast Cares Day in our communities. It is one of our largest days of service and is something I look forward to annually. I should also mention that Joan Sage, Comcast's Government and Regulatory Affairs Manager has attended several meetings of our Board to talk about Comcast' Internet Essentials program offered to any family with children who are eligible for free and reduced school lunches. This program provides Internet service for a reduced price (along with reduced cost computers) and is another great example of how this corporation sees beyond commerce and does good for those that need it most. If allowed to merge with Time Warner Cable, Comcast has committed to bring this program to more communities, which would surely provide a meaningful benefit to them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Scott Christiansen", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Scott Christiansen, Chairman
Winnebago County Board